7

App. F. IX-4

Previous References.

1940-1 War)

War File No. 151

Serial Nos. 1 & 2

Later References.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. Two only

Part B for January 1942

SUBJECT.

Fifth Column activities during the Northern Command Air Defence exercises.

J.M. Kriehman 22.1.42.

1051/W

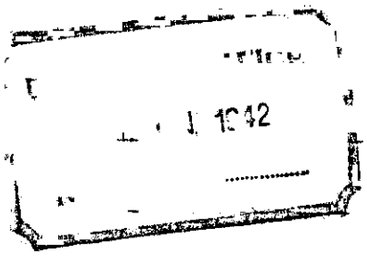
Fifth Column activities during the Northern Command Air Defence exercises 43 63

General and Revenue Secretariat

W File No. 151 of 1940-1 [App. F. III—2

Serial No. 1

From The Secy to the Hon'ble the Resident F.2/1942 dt 9th Jan. 42 forwarding a copy of a note prepared by the General Staff Branch, Command HQrs which gives details of certain successes scored by the "fifth Column" in the recent Air Defence Exercises which took place in the Northern Command.



Law Minister minute on the P.U.D.

Copy may be sent to I.S.P. and C.C. Secy also requires copy on particular confidential file under D.O. No. 191

Submitted for perusal with a draft to the I.S.P. & C.C. If approved. Copies of the letter with enclosure will be sent to the Mily Secy. C.3. and P.S. Secy

Issued No. 1492/W dt 13.1.42 to the I.G.P.
No. 1493/W dt " to the Chief Commandant

The file will be sent to the Mily Secy for note & return

Copies of the Resident's letter, its enclosure & letter to the C-in-C. N.S.T. are taken and the file is returned to the War Section. To be perused before returning to War Section.

War Secy

NOTE—Contn. Sheet.

WD 04155—GPB—55,000—23-10-41.

W 151-40-1

4343

1050/W

The reply to this communication should be addressed to the Secretary to the Resident in Mysore, Bangalore, by designation and not by name.

Secret.

No. F.2/1942.

FROM

THE SECRETARY TO THE HON'BLE THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.

JAN 10 1942

No. 7059-

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore, Bangalore.

Subject:- "Fifth Column" activities during the Northern Command Air Defence exercises.

Dated Bangalore, the 9th January *1942*

SIR,

I am directed to forward a copy of a note prepared in General Staff Branch, General Headquarters, which gives details of certain successes scored by the "fifth Column" in the recent Air Defence exercises which took place in Northern Command. During the course of these exercises security precautions were tested from all aspects and for this purpose a temporary "fifth column" was formed from military personnel. Those comprising the "fifth column" took no advantage of their real official positions, and in cases where they wore uniform, the uniform was purchased by them as private individuals' from local kabari bazaars.

2. It has been suggested that this note may serve as an indication of possible weakness and as a starting point from which Provincial Governments and Indian States may care to examine their own security arrangements in order to ensure that such activities are adequately guarded against. In view of the approach of active operations to the frontiers of India and the danger of subversive elements carrying on activities of this kind, it has become increasingly important that all places where papers bearing on the military situation may be

found should be adequately secured, as well as all channels of communication through which correspondence passes which may be of value to the enemy..

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Secretary to the Resident in Mysore.

Some cases in which Civil Departments were affected by the activities of the "Fifth Column" during the recent Northern Command Air Defence Exercises.

On the 19th September 1941, a "Fifth Columnist" posing as a Sub-Inspector of the Additional Police, gained entry to the Office of the Senior Superintendent of Police in a certain District and removed a map of a portion of the District. Such maps are, of course, F.O.U.O

2. A Provincial Secretariat has been receiving the attentions of the "Fifth Column". An "Agent" recently arrived in the capital with the intention of entering the Secretariat in the guise of an electrician and removing maps and papers. He first went to the office of the Electrical Engineer which was empty except for a peon. In reply to questions, the peon assured the "Agent" that electricians did not wear any uniform. The "Fifth Columnist" then went to the Kabari Bazaar where he provided himself with a tool bag and a few tools.

The "Agent" then watched one entrance to the Secretariat from a distance and noticed that anyone who went in boldly and unhesitatingly was not stopped.

On the 19th September 1941, he walked past the sentry without being stopped, went to the Head Clerk of one Department and said that he had come to adjust the fans and lights. He said he did not want to disturb the officers at their work and obtained permission to do his work after office hours. In some cases he was accompanied by a chaprassi and in others he visited offices alone, collecting a varied assortment of embossed stationery and maps. He was unable to get into one branch of the office of the Inspector General of Police as a Police Officer demanded his authority. The "Agent" assured him that he would return the following day with the necesary letter, but of course, did not appear again. From another branch of the Inspector General's office, however, he removed a map of N.W.Ry. Police Stations

3. By the efforts of some new adherents, the "Fifth Column" has come into possession of a mass of secret information.

On the 23rd September 1941, the sealed mail bag, containing registered and ordinary mail for Headquarters Northern Command was brought into a Military Sub-Post Office by a Post Office peon, who had collected it from the City Post Office.

When the bag of mail was opened the Post Master was surprised to find that it only contained old newspapers.

Telephonic conversations between the two Post masters were then held.

For three weeks the "Fifth Column" had watched the mail bags carried between the two Post Offices. On this particular occasion. the peon had stopped for a moment outside a drapery shop where an auction was being (held) The bag was heavy and he put it on the ground for a moment. The opportunity was seized. Another bag was put down beside the peon and the real bag removed. After a moment or two the peon picked up his bag and proceeded unsuspecting on his way.

In order to avoid complications the "Fifth Column" did not open the bag. If they had done so they would have obtained possession of the following postal matter, addressed to Headquarters Northern Command:-

11 Registered parcels.
56 Registered letters.
2 Insured letters.

Appendix F G—1]

SUBJECT.....

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Section War

File No. 151-40

Serial No. 2

Diary No. of letter replied to.....

Secret

No. 1492/W Encs 3.

To 1493/W

The I.G.P. Bihar.

C. C. Nest

General and Revenue Secretariat

( )

the *19* .

"Fifth Column" activities during the Northern Command Air Defence exercise

Date of issue 13.1.42

Sir,

Signed by Mr. S. K. V. Iyer.

I am directed to enclose herein for information and guidance a copy of Reg. letter no F. 2/1942 dated 9th Jan. 42 with enclosures on the above subject.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

List of enclosures.....

Copied by .....

Copy to C.B.
Mily Sec
Police Sec

Examined by .....

SECRET.

13th January

Nos. 1492/W.
— Encs 3.

1493/W —
Encs 3.

The I. G. P.
" Chief Commandant.

"Fifth Column" activities during the Northern Command Air Defence Exercises.

- - - - - -

I am directed to forward for your information a copy of Residency letter No.F.2/1942 dated the 9th January 1942 with enclosure on the above subject.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

for

For Chief Secretary to Government